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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named
Inventor   : Eric Brill et al.

Appln. No.: 09/849,833

Filed   : May 4, 2001

For   : METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
              UNSUPERVISED TRAINING OF
              NATURAL LANGUAGE PROCESSING
              UNITS

Docket No.: M61.12-0346

Group Art Unit: 2655	
Examiner: Matthew Sked	

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

An interview was held between Applicants' representative, Theodore M. Magee, and Examiner Sked on October 12, 2004. During the interview, Examiner Sked indicated that the alignment module in Berger that produces the alignments of tables 3A and 4A constitute a natural language unit.

Examiner Sked also stated that the meaning set was not shown directly in Berger but would be inherent to Berger because such a meaning set would be needed in order to do the translations. Applicants' representative indicated that such meaning sets were not needed in order to do the translations, because the translations were done in a probabilistic manner in Berger. In particular, Berger determines the probability of a source word translating into a target word in another language without understanding the meaning of any of the words. Berger identifies the most likely alignment between the words, and then calculates a probability of translating a source word to a target word.
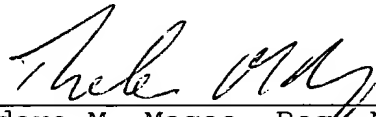
The measure of merit in Berger at column 13 was also discussed. Examiner Sked indicated that this measure of merit generates a score based on the meaning sets. Applicants' representative indicated that this measure of merit is used to evaluate which context should be used in equation 7A, and as such did not compare two meaning sets. Instead, the alignment was set before the measure of merit is calculated, thereby making it impossible for the measure of unit to be used to compare two meaning sets.

Applicants' representative also asked Examiner Sked where Berger shows the step of determining how to modify a first natural language and where Berger shows a parser as found in claims 13 and 14. The Examiner indicated that he would need to do more research into Berger in order to identify these elements in Berger.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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